



April 8, 2011

A number of departments and residents were impacted by the severe thunderstorms and strong straight-line winds we experienced on Monday, April 4th. The **Parks Department** was the hardest hit department. Overall, the damages are minor but a lot of it, especially at **Jim Warren Park and Liberty Park**, where the batting cages were completely blown down. **Harlinsdale Park** also suffered some wind damage to the roof of one of the small barns. I did activate the



emergency operations center at the Police Department immediately after the storm. We had about 29 trees downed by the wind, a house fire in the Monticello subdivision and a reported tornado touchdown in Cool Springs. All of our departments worked well together during this time. We received a lot of positive comments from citizens about the quick response and clean-up performed by our crews. Thanks to everyone for their great work in responding to Monday's storm.

Those of you who work in City Hall know that we used a new shelter location (across the street in the basement of the Courthouse). This should provide better shelter during severe weather such as tornados and high winds. In these situations it is important that we all move to safety as quickly as possible. We plan to conduct a drill in the near future to practice getting to our safe location as quickly as possible and accounting for all our people. Look for more information on this soon.

Last night, the **Growing Kids Educational Garden** opened at the **Park at Harlinsdale Farm**. The Garden, a partnership between the Parks Department and the **Franklin**



Farmers Market Association, provides hands-on lessons for kids on healthy food, the environment, and the importance of agriculture. Approximately 50 people came out for the ribbon cutting and to watch the children plant their first seeds of the season. The actual program begins in two weeks with classes taught by local farmers and gardening experts. Congratulations to **Anna Shuford, Deanna Scheffel, Lisa Clayton**, and the rest of the **Parks Department staff** for launching the City's first educational garden!

Buddy Bluebag (Sustainability/Grants Coordinator, Andrew Orr) and Communications Manager Milissa Reiersen were featured on **Liberty Elementary's** Morning News program to talk about the Blue Bag Recycling program. After showing the video produced by the Leadership Franklin Group about the program, Buddy and Milissa gave the School Principal, Ms. Mathis, a pop quiz on items that are recyclable. She passed the quiz with flying colors. The video will be posted on youtube in a day or two.



Members of the **Franklin Fire Department's Swift Water Rescue Team** will participate in a large scale, multi-agency water rescue training exercise this **Saturday, April 9, at Percy Priest Lake**. The exercise is being organized in partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) by the Nashville Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Training and Exercise Committee. **Franklin Fire Captain Glenn Johnson chairs the committee and Captain Jeff Elliott is a member.** During the exercise, which will take place at the Anderson Road Recreation Center from 8:30 a.m. to noon, a boat will be sunk and underwater manikins will be placed in or near the boat along with other training aids. People wearing cold water rescue suits will also enter the water to play live victims. **Engineer Kirk McGee, Brian Daugherty, and Firefighters David Cloud, Jason Morgan and Cory Swenson will also attend.** The Franklin Fire Department has a team of 17 personnel with swift water certifications. Of these 17 firefighters, 12 are certified at the level of Swift Water II.

Interim Police Chief David Rahinsky met with Governor Haslam Thursday as part of the **Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police (TACP) Day on the Hill**. The TACP is comprised of Police Chiefs from across Tennessee, committed to advancing the science and art of police services, and to keeping communities and police officers who protect them safe.

Congratulations to **Michael Haman, a Building Inspector in our Building and Neighborhood Services Department** who recently completed the **International Code Council Commercial Mechanical Inspector Certification**. We appreciate your initiative to enhance your expertise. Thank you for your hard work.

Tammie Pitts from HR is this week's winner of the Mayor's parking spot. Tammie was nominated by DeAnn Kraft. DeAnn said, "she consistently goes above and beyond what is required and is always very pleasant. Although it is rare, when an error does occur she moves quickly to rectify the issue and takes full responsibility. Tammie is very knowledgeable and always very good at communicating any changes that take place. I am very thankful to have her as our Benefits Manager!" If you see someone doing a good job, please take a moment and nominate them for this one week luxury. **Email agoodjob@franklintn.gov with your nominations.** We'll keep them on file for a drawing each Monday. **Tammie, you can begin your parking reign this Monday April 11-15. Congratulations!**

Congrats also to Dawn Wildrick from Finance who provided the quickest and most complete list of "ways to reach first base in baseball" question. Here is my official/unofficial list:
Hit (all forms single, double, triple, home run, etc.), walk, hit by pitch, fielder's choice, error, dropped/uncaught third strike (pass ball or wild pitch), catcher interference, fielder obstruction, and umpire interference (extremely rare). Dawn, come on down to Admin and get your hat!

Have a great weekend and thanks for all you do!

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